

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Hail damage repaired; STS-96 set for return to launch pad



NASA expendable vehicle launches delayed



▲ **Shuttle Update:** Repairs on hail damage to the foam insulation on Discovery's external tank (photo at left) is nearing completion. Once the Shuttle was returned to the VAB, about 648 divots were identified, with 248 requiring new foam and 211 needing blending or sanding. On Tuesday, May 18, lightning protection was provided for the STS-93 external tank and solid rocket booster stack sitting outside the VAB. Two catenary wires were strung from the top of the VAB to temporary towers for grounding. The stack was moved closer to the VAB and under the wires. Movement of the Shuttle back to the pad was expected to occur early Thursday morning. Target launch date for STS-96 is May 27 at 6:48 a.m. EDT.

▲ **Launches of NASA spacecraft** on expendable vehicles have been impacted by the recent problems incurred by non-NASA launches. The weather satellite GOES-L is targeted for launch aboard an Atlas vehicle from CCAS no earlier than late May, after the launch of STS-96. The FUSE satellite launch on a Delta II vehicle from CCAS will occur no earlier than June 18. At Vandenberg AFB, the launch of QuickScat on a titan II vehicle will occur no earlier than mid-June.

◆ **KSC Fitness Centers** are holding indoor triathlon-type events through May 28. Individuals may participate in either a sprint triathlon or distance triathlon. Relay teams may only participate in the distance triathlon. The sprint event involves biking 5 miles, rowing 2500 meters, and running 1 mile. The distance event involves biking 10 miles, rowing 2500 meters and running 2 miles. Contact a fitness center staff member for details or to schedule your event time.

◆ **Members of the Human Centered Computing Group** of the Information Sciences and Technology Directorate at Ames Research Center are visiting KSC this week. A major research focus for the Directorate and the emerging Intelligent Systems program, Human Centered Computing (HCC) is a software engineering methodology which improves human and computer performance by emphasizing participatory design and partnership between the people who use and those who develop computer systems. The group will be making presentations at 2 p.m. (Human Centered Computing) and 3 p.m. (Knowledge Management) today and 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. tomorrow in the Headquarters Building CEE Room (Room 3210); a third presentation at 3 p.m. Friday will be Human Factors Research at ARC and Collaboration with the FAA. Please contact Michael Freeman via e-mail at *Michael.Freeman-1@ksc.nasa.gov* to indicate which you plan to attend.

◆ **Did You Know? Vision Screening is available** at the Occupational Health Facility on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. No appointments are required. For more information, call 867-2026.

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